

Introduced by Senator Denham

February 22, 2005

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 26— Relative to National Agriculture Week and National Agriculture Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 26, as introduced, Denham. National Agriculture Week and National Agriculture Day.

This measure would proclaim the week of March 20 to March 26, 2005, as National Agriculture Week and Saturday, March 26, 2005, as National Agriculture Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, March 26, 2005, is National Agriculture Day, a
2 day set aside to honor the men and women of agriculture, and to
3 promote an understanding of America's agricultural industry; and
4 WHEREAS, California's agricultural production fuels the
5 state's economy and helps feed the nation and the world; and
6 WHEREAS, California agriculture provides a vital
7 infrastructure that aids in the exclusion and early detection of
8 plant and animal pests and diseases that impact our human
9 health, commerce, and environment; and
10 WHEREAS, For approximately 56 consecutive years,
11 California has been the number one agricultural state in the
12 nation, producing more than 350 crop and livestock products and
13 accounting for 50 percent of the nation's supply of fruits,
14 vegetables, and nuts; and
15 WHEREAS, The tireless efforts of approximately 800,000
16 farm workers have contributed greatly to the success of the
17 agricultural industry; and

1 WHEREAS, With less than 1 percent of California's 33
2 million people engaged in farming and ranching, each
3 agricultural worker today provides for more than 100 other
4 people, compared to just 13 in 1947; and

5 WHEREAS, Today's agricultural industry offers over 200
6 challenging and rewarding career opportunities, from on-farm
7 cultivation, to food science and engineering; and

8 WHEREAS, Over the past 5 decades, advances in production
9 agriculture have resulted in a drop of consumer spending on food
10 consumption from 24 percent of disposable income in 1949 to
11 approximately 9 percent today; and

12 WHEREAS, California is the nation's leader in agricultural
13 exports, annually shipping more than 6.5 billion dollars worth of
14 food and agricultural commodities to countries ranging from
15 Europe to Asia, and from Africa to Latin America; and

16 WHEREAS, California's agricultural industry builds on
17 centuries of progress by constantly seeking to incorporate the
18 latest scientific and technological production and marketing
19 techniques to meet the demands of changing consumer needs and
20 complex world markets; and

21 WHEREAS, Programs are continually being developed to
22 improve quality and ensure safe handling practices on the farm,
23 in transit, and during processing; and

24 WHEREAS, A broad approach to agricultural education is
25 vital to ensure that California agriculture continues to flourish;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, The California 5 A Day For Better Health
28 Campaign, launched in 1988, was the precursor for the National
29 5 A Day Program, which spreads the message that healthy eating
30 through the consumption of fruits and vegetables can reduce the
31 risk of heart disease and cancer by as much as 30 percent; and

32 WHEREAS, As our national and global population grows, it is
33 important to recognize the vital role that agriculture plays in our
34 daily lives; and

35 WHEREAS, It is appropriate for all Californians to recognize
36 our farmers, farmworkers, and others involved in providing such
37 a bounty to our nation and the entire world; now, therefore, be it

38 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
39 *thereof concurring*, That it takes great pleasure in honoring the
40 men and women of California agriculture for their dedication and

1 productivity by observing the week of March 20 to March 26,
2 2005, as National Agriculture Week and Saturday, March 26,
3 2005, as National Agriculture Day; and be it further
4 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
5 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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